

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the claims are presented below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.173(b)(2) and (d). For the convenience of the Examiner, a version of the amended claims showing all changes made is included in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 33-37, 48, 58-60, 64, 65, 79-83, 92, 93, 103-105, 109, 110, 173-175, 181-189, and 195-201.

Please amend claims 22, 51, 68, 96, 113, 114, 117, 129, 161, 165-172, 176, 179, 190, and 193 as indicated below. Please add new claims 202-205.

22. (Four Times Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

51. (Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

68. (Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

96. (Five Times Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:

providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

113. (Three Times Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

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an expandable stent that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration

to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

114. (Three Times Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable stent that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to

a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

117. (Three Times Amended) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion

of a body passageway comprising:

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an expandable member that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the expandable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

129. (Three Times Amended) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion

of a body passageway comprising:

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a deformable member that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the deformable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

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161. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 153, wherein the step of deforming the deformable member includes expanding the blood vessel.

165. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

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an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

166. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a

body comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and

providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

167. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

168. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:

providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and

providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

169. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable stent that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable stent relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

170. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable stent that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable stent relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

171. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:

an expandable member that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to the body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the expandable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

172. (Twice Amended) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:

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a deformable member that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to the body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the deformable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

176. (Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member,

wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue,

wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

179. (Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member,

wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure,

wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

190. (Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member,

wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue,

wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

193. (Amended) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member,

wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure,

wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

Please add the following new claims:

202. (New) An assembly comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

203. (New) An assembly comprising:

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a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

204. (New) An assembly comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

205. (New) An assembly comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.